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RUEHC/DEPT OF INTERIOR WASHINGTON DC
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/CJTF HOA
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

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USAID/W FOR A/AID
DCHA/AA WGARVELINK, LROGERS
AFR/AA LPIERSON, KALMQUIST
DCHA/OFDA GGOTTILIEB, KCHANNELL, LPOWERS, PMCCABE
AFR/EA KNELSON
DCHA/FFP WHAMMINK JDWORKEN, TANDERSON, PBERTOLIN
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR A/S AF FRAZER, DAS AF JSWAN,
AF/E, AF/PDPA, OES, A/S PRM SAUERBREY, PRM
USDA/FAS FOR U/S PENN, MCHAMBLISS, RTILSWORTH, AND
LPANASUK
NAIROBI FOR OFDA/ARO JMYER, RFFPO, REDSO/ESA
ROME FOR AMBASSADOR, OHA
BRUSSELS FOR USEU PLERNER
GENEVA FOR NKYLOH, RMA
NSC FOR CHUDSON AND JMELINE

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TAGS: [EAID](#) [SENV](#) [EAGR](#) [ET](#)

SUBJECT: 2007 BELG SEASON PRE-HARVEST ASSESSMENT IN
ETHIOPIA

11. SUMMARY. The Disaster Prevention Preparedness Agency (DPPA) led multi-agency teams that conducted a pre-harvest and needs assessment of the 2007 Belg season between June 24 and July 14, 2007. This involved 15 teams visiting all Belg producing and pastoral areas in the country. The purpose was to assess the outcome of this season and its impact on food security in the cropping and pastoral areas. The assessment teams consulted with all relevant offices at all levels to obtain pre-harvest yield estimates, livestock performance, pasture and water availability, market price trends and human health conditions. Taking into account all sources of food and income, the teams provided a comprehensive picture of the prospect of food security for the coming one year. The teams reported their findings to the National Early Warning Working Group, DPPA and donors on July 17, 2007. The assessment teams were delayed in access to conflict areas of Somali Region and the preliminary reports have only been presented on August 13, 2007 (will be reported SEPTEL). END SUMMARY.

12. In general Belg rainfall performance in Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Tigray Regions was rated as poor although pocket areas have received normal rainfall in all four regions. The poor performance of the 2007 Belg season in much of the Afar Region has caused shortage of pasture and water. The physical condition of livestock has also deteriorated. In other Regions, the late onset and early cessation of the rains, excessive rains, flood and hailstorm damage have caused production losses. Vulnerable

households are not able to compensate for the crop and livestock production losses with other sources of income. The assessment teams estimate that relief intervention for approximately 600,000 people will be required during the period of August to December 2007, in addition to the 7.2 million chronically food insecure assisted by the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). This estimate does not include Somali Region for which the assessment figures have not yet been released.

Weather and Crop production

13. The performance of 2007 Belg crop production was rated as below average in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray Regions due to poor performance of the rains. However, the crop production performance is promising and bumper harvest is anticipated in the Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) Region. Belg crop performance is poor especially in lowlands of Oromia Region. Major crops affected by weather adversities are maize, haricot bean, wheat, barely and teff. Factors that have attributed for poor crop production are moisture stress, shortage of farm inputs, incidence of crop pest and diseases. There was a report of crop damage by disease (rust) and pest (bollworms) at vegetative, flowering and fruit setting stages on wheat and barley and pulses in Oromia Region. Furthermore, the excess rainfall may have a negative implication on the performance of the crops associated with disease, flood and land

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slides.

Livestock Condition

14. As a result of the poor performance of Belg rains, grassland and browse conditions deteriorated rapidly in most areas except the seasonally flooded kebeles along the Awash River in Afar Region. Tree locust infestation in Zone 5 and Zone 2 further aggravated the scarcity of pasture for livestock. The team estimated 40,000 - to 60,000 livestock are concentrated in the Cheffa Valley in search of pasture and water. The assessment team reported that the Belg failure has been the cause for shortage of water and pasture. As a result, the drought claimed about 5-10 percent of the livestock population in Afar Region.

15. In Oromia Region, availability of pasture and browse is poor in the Lowlands of Borena and Guji Zones. Due to a shortage of pasture, early migration of livestock takes place in lowlands of Borena and Guji Zones. There is a concern that pasture availability is decreasing as a result of expansion of farm land in Bale Zone. Livestock physical condition is below normal in pocket areas of Borena, Guji, West Arsi and North Shewa Zones. An unidentified camel disease outbreak was reported in the Borena Zone of Oromia Region. There is no vaccine or treatment that can cure the disease. Affected animals die without showing any symptoms. Besides, an unusual incidence of sheep-pox has affected many sheep in West Arsi.

16. In SNNP region, adequate water and pasture is available and no unusual livestock diseases reported; however, trypanosomiasis is reported from Dawuro Zone.

Water

17. As result of the 2007 Belg failure in most parts of the Afar Region, a significant decline in yields and in some cases a complete drying up of the water sources are reported. Serious water shortages were also reported, mainly in those woredas known to be chronically water deficit (Eli dare woreda), which were supported with water tanks for a number of years have now discontinued. Availability of water is poor in Lowland Borena and Guji Zones.

Market

18. The price of staple food and livestock is still high in all regions. However, the team that went to Afar Region reported that due to poor physical condition of the livestock, prices are below normal.

Human health

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19. Except in Tigray, Gambella and Benshangul Regions, acute watery diarrhea (AWD or cholera) is on the rise in all parts of the country. In 17 woredas of Afar Region, a total of 9,005 AWD cases were registered, of which 335 people reported to have died since April 2007. The Tigray Regional Health Bureau observed an "unidentified disease" in Alamata woreda in recent months. Malnutrition problems were reported from Bale, Arsi, East Shoa, East and West Hararghe Zones of Oromia Region. A nutrition survey in Bona woreda of SNNP Region showed 16.4 percent global acute malnutrition. Two thousand five hundred refugees from Kenya are also experiencing serious food shortage problem in Dire Woreda of Oromia Region.

Food Security Prospects For July 2007 - June 2008

10. The food security prospect of Belg dependent woredas is rated as below normal with the exception of SNNP Region. Due to late onset and early cessation of the rains, excessive rains, flood and hailstorm damage production losses are expected. Most of the losses could not be compensated by the other sources of income. As a result, the assessment teams estimate that relief intervention for approximately 600,000 persons in the assessed Belg dependent areas will be required during August to December 2007.

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